



TOWN OF WESTFORD AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

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December 6, 2010

Westford Water Commissioners
Westford Water Department
60 Forge Village Road
Westford, MA 01886

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Affordable Housing Committee, regarding the waiving of Water Department connection fees for the Affordable Housing project on Boston Road, known as "Cottages in the Woods". In a recent Affordable Housing Committee meeting, this matter was discussed and the committee unanimously supported the request to waive these fees.

The committee feels strongly that the Water Department connection fees should be waived in support of the "Cottages in the Woods" development for several reasons:

1. This is an affordable housing project in which every single unit will be truly affordable, **100%**, – a first for Westford.
2. This project is unique – truly iconoclastic! The committee believes that the success of this project will help change the image of affordable housing both locally and throughout the region, and promote affordable housing that is appropriate for Westford and similar communities.
3. Partial waiving of connections fees for appropriate projects has been made in the past for projects that are generally thought to be in the town's best interests. We are not advocating for something that has not been done before.
4. This is a project that was initiated and sponsored by our town government.
5. During the most recent meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Selectmen voted to waive permitting fees for this project.

The "bottom line" is that this is a project that is of great significance to Westford. Its importance goes far beyond the 20 units of truly affordable housing – it shows that all facets of town government can work together with private interests and a local builder to produce affordable housing that is **100%** affordable, is in keeping with the town's character, and addresses a severe regional need for low income housing.

Please join with the Affordable Housing Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Zoning Board of Appeals in supporting this project by waiving the connection fees for this development.

Yours truly,
WESTFORD AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Paul Cully
Chairman

C.C. Jodi Ross, Angus Jennings, John Mangiaratti, Chris Pude, Diane Holmes, Jim Silva,
Mary Lynn Galgano, Scott Hazelton, Ann Eno, Rob Downing